

## Malachi 1 7.9.17 #cccsermons

Malachi was written by the last prophet in the Old Testament sometime after 460 B.C. when Israel had successfully returned from exile, but were disappointed and discouraged because they didn't see God working any more in their lives. The book of Malachi is written as a **WAKE-UP** call for the hypocritical to be held accountable for their sin and to return to a relationship with God.

**Malachi 1:1** An oracle is an announcement or message that suggests **UNWELCOMED** news or judgment.

- The prophet recognizes that **what he is about to communicate** to people will not just tickle the ears but will ultimately be **TROUBLING to their souls**.

**Malachi 1:2** Sometimes we think that God doesn't love us because **we don't see RESULTS** that we want. Because of this, when things get tough, when someone hurts us, when we get sick, when someone close to us dies, when things don't go as planned, it's very easy to question God's love.

**Malachi 1:2-5** Instead of pronouncing judgment on their lack of faith, God gives them a history lesson to demonstrate His love. Malachi 1:2-5 focuses on God's choice of Jacob over Esau centuries before. (see **Genesis 25:19-23**)

- Only one son could provide the family line of the Messiah and God had chosen Jacob over Esau because God knew before he was born that Esau would despise his birthright and sell it to Jacob. (see **Hebrews 12:16-17**)
- Ironically, at times Israel has behaved just like immoral, godless Edom, but the difference is that Israel has **PERIODICALLY** repented and turned back to God.

### 3 things I'd like to note:

- #1 From their conception, these two brothers were fighting, so take heart, your kids aren't the only ones.
- #2 From their conception, God knows who you are, who you will be and has a **PLAN** for your life!
- #3 God's not always fair, but He is **JUST!**

This phrase HATES has caused many problems with a lot of people saying why does God hate. "Hates" here is not emotional, but rather a **FAVORING** (like in **Luke 14:26**).

Malachi wanted Israel to grasp the **UNDESERVED** love of God for the nation of Israel. (see **Ephesians 1:4-5**) Yet, the people of Israel were not only skeptical of God's love, but they were not even appreciative of it either.

So God tells them how He has shown His love to them by **PROTECTING** them over the years while Edom was not (see **Malachi 1:3-4**). God is so **GRACIOUS** and we are often so spoiled and oblivious to notice.

**Malachi 1:6-14** Unlike worship today, **before Christ came**, every person was required to give an offering, which entailed having a blood sacrifice offered up to God for the forgiveness of their sins. Depending on their wealth, people would bring either a bull, a sheep or goat, or a pigeon. God's law was very specific about the quality of the animal to be in normal condition without any impurities. (see **Deuteronomy 15:21**)

- Notice, they weren't just bringing the second best, but they were bringing their worst: Blind, lame and sick animals (see 1:8) Now today we don't offer up blood sacrifices for sins because of Christ's sacrifice on the cross, who died to forgive us all from our sins (see **Colossians 2:13-14**), but we are called to offer something to God every day. Today, we are called to use our bodies and resources as an **OFFERING** in order to glorify the Lord.
- After all, God **DESERVES** our BEST effort. We are not all created equal, but we all control our effort and our attitude.

### Three takeaways from Malachi 1

#### #1 OUR SECOND BEST DOES NOT HONOR GOD.

- **Honor is defined as a reputation worthy of respect and admiration.**
- God is not looking for ritual or routine, but He is looking for a relationship with you. Do you honor God with your time, talent, and tithe?

#### #2 OUR SECOND BEST DOES NOT PLEASE GOD.

- God doesn't need your best sheep or your 10%, but He does need your **HEART**. (see **Matthew 6:21**)
- **God grieves when He is not your treasure because you are HIS treasure!**
- **If we don't give God our best, often that means that we're giving OTHER THINGS our best.**
- The problem wasn't a lack of service, but it was the **QUALITY** of service!

#### #3 OUR SECOND BEST WILL NEVER SATISFY US. Matthew 16:26

- A religion that costs nothing, is worth nothing, and it will bring no lasting satisfaction to us.
- **When we don't give our best, we grow COMPLACENT.**
- **We need to be careful that we don't get so good at being good that we stop being GODLY!**

Aim for **PERFECTION**, but know that you won't make it, but in turn you will give your best effort. (see **Romans 12:1-2**)

**Who are you trying to fool?** Just bringing a sacrifice is not good enough. God wants your heart. **Be careful because living for God can become a ritual rather than a RELATIONSHIP!**